

To Members of the Public Health Committee:

We are Diane and Roy Speed, and we're residents of Bethel, Connecticut. We have two children, and we're writing in opposition to Proposed Senate Bill 374.

This bill would require behavioral health assessments for public school and homeschooled children — and without any indication that such assessments were needed.

We realize how eager our state representatives are to prevent another Sandy Hook-type disaster, and we share your concern. But we see no reason to believe that the kind of comprehensive, invasive evaluations foreseen in this bill would succeed at preventing such a thing. Please bear in mind that Adam Lanza had undergone such evaluations, and they didn't prevent his actions.

Equally alarming, any such assessment would constitute an unwarranted invasion of family privacy, and the massive scale of the interventions foreseen in this bill would have a host of unintended consequences.

Please think carefully. The Sandy Hook investigation is not far from complete, and we neither need nor want our state government taking rash, ill-considered action with no thought for the burdens it imposes on families like ours. We look to you for careful, considered approaches to the problems we all face.

Sincerely,

Roy & Diane Speed
15 Long Meadow Lane
Bethel, Conn. 06801

Tel: 203.744.2321

Email: rspeed@salientcomm.com & dspeed@salientcomm.com